

¹³
What is claimed is

1. A network for communicating with a plurality of radiotelephones via respective communication channels over timeslots on a carrier, wherein the channels can operate at a first or second data rate such that a timeslot on the carrier can transmit a single communication channel operating at the first data rate or two communication channels operating at the second data rate, the network comprising a controller responsive to a predetermined condition for initiating a change in the data rate of a transmitted channel from the first data rate to the second data rate.
2. A network according to claim 1 wherein the controller is responsive to the predetermined condition for initiating a change in the data rate of two channels transmitted on separate timeslots from the first data rate to the second data rate and combining the two channels onto the same timeslot.
3. A network according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the first data rate is a full speech rate and the second data rate is a half speech rate.
4. A network according to any preceding claim, wherein the predetermined condition is that the number of channels established in the network exceeds a predetermined threshold.
5. A network according to any preceding claim, wherein the predetermined condition is the initiation of a channel with a second network.
6. A network according to any preceding claim, wherein the two channels originate in the network.
7. A network substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings, and/or as shown therein.

- add a2

[illegible]